

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78217**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner
Councilman, Chip Haass, City of San Antonio
Mayor Patrick Heath, City of Boerne
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County
Councilman H.A. "Dan" Daniels, City of Seguin
Mayor Bruce Boyer, City of New Braunfels
Councilman Jim Tremblay, Bexar County Council
of Cities

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair
Nicolas Page, MPO
Liza Meyers, City of San Antonio

Guests

Stanley Dabney II, Lackland AFB
Michelle Feenstra, Malcolm Pirnie
Christine Gutierrez, District 10 Aide
Jaimie Mitchell, City of Austin
Dean Sheppard

Advisory Committee Members

Mike Riley, City of Seguin
Susan Ghertner, HEB
David Newman, City of San Antonio
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County
Kevin Butt, Toyota
Rebecca Gray, American Lung Association
Richard Garcia, TCEQ
Rick Hite, TCEQ

AACOG Staff

Al Notzon, Executive Director
Dean Danos, Deputy Director
Peter Bella, Director, Natural Resources
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager
Isabel Martinez, Clean Cities Coordinator
Amber Mayne, Outreach Specialist
Heather Willden, Commute Solutions Assistant
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant

I. Roll Call Chairman Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared a quorum. Chairman Millikin moved to agenda item number VI. to welcome newly appointed Councilman H. A. Dan Daniels from the City of Seguin to the AIR Executive Committee.

II. Citizens to be Heard Forrest Mims signed up to speak on Item # V later on the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin asked for a motion to approve the June 14, 2006 minutes. Councilman Haass moved to accept the minutes. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for discussion. There was none. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report

Mr. Bella referred the committee to the updated tables on the ozone and particulate matter report. He reported that during the last two months there weren't any exceedences of the eight-hour standard recorded on local ozone monitors. He explained that the region was in the middle of a three-year period during which the ozone reports will be taken by the EPA and TCEQ and judged against the federal air quality standards, that of a three year average or fourth highest numbers. Thus far, the regulatory monitors recorded 86 ppb as the fourth highest number last year and 87 ppb as the fourth highest number to date this year. Consequently, the region had

to score less than 82 ppb next year to have a three-year average that meets federal air quality standard criteria.

Mr. Bella provided an explanation on PM10 and PM 2.5 federal standards for particulate matter as well as the two averaging periods for each of the sizes. He explained that the tables in the hand out reflected figures for particulate matter for the region that were well under attainment for PM 10 and PM 2.5 national ambient air quality standards.

Councilman Tremblay began discussion on why the EPA federal standards placed decimal points on particulate matter and truncated the actual reading for a whole number for ozone. Renee Green explained that in 1997 the ozone standard was reviewed and a new standard was set. The standard that EPA set to determined regulatory compliance is .08 parts per million. Mrs. Green commented that the .08 parts per million gave the ability to round down and to discuss it in that way. She noted we use 85 or 84 parts per billion because it is easier to present but in terms of rounding we were given that grace of 4/1000s. Chairman Millikin said the discussion was good and merited attention from the group however, his concern was that “we not wring our hands because we are on the cusp of non-attainment looking at EPA’s numbers.”

a. Transport Analysis Mr. Bella presented a power point presentation summarizing a draft report of results from the TERC Project H60 Phase 1 entitled “ Ozone Impacts of Proposed Power Plants and Offsets”. Mr. Bella highlighted the following points:

- It was a recent technical analysis performed by the Texas Environmental Research Consortium.
- The investigation was part of the Dallas/Ft. Worth 2009 attainment SIP effort.
- There are four different modeling episodes that the environmental consortium used to evaluate EGUs being proposed by TXU power plant. TXU provided the information to the state both on what their operating parameters would be and what their proposed offsets would be.
- TXU committed to make reductions at their other operations in other places so that the net balance across the state for emissions is zero.
- The question then is, because there will be additions in some places and reductions in other places, what does the model show?
- Mr. Bella reproduced ENVIRON graphs showing the non-attainment areas, the locations of the EGU’s proposed by TXU and the location of reductions that TXU proposes.
- 72 tons per day NOx are being added across the state however they are offset by 73 tons per day.
- The model shows Dallas/Ft. Worth benefiting slightly from the offsets. On some days, this region and Austin will be affected negatively through transport.
- Austin has put together a resolution that requests the state understands that you cannot issue a permit based on just a local review. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Citizens to be Heard; Transport Analysis

Mr. Mims remarked that on March 13 the AIR Tech committee reviewed a Frequently Asked Questions sheet from the AIR Public Education Committee that addressed the question of transport. The FAQ was reviewed by the AIR Technical Committee and after some minor changes was approved for use by the media. Mr. Mims said that later another document was used in the news media without the transport issue being addressed. Mr. Mims asked that media releases be fully accurate so as to not mislead the public. Mr. Mims said Mr. Notzon had immediately addressed the issue by posting the article on the AACOG website.

Chairman Millikin stated that they all shared his concern about transport. He did however, need to make it clear that there isn't anybody who's intent was to deceive the public on anything that we are doing. The Chairman said that our intent is not to deceive but to protect.

Mr. Notzon explained that staff was distributing the approved handout. He recommended that it should be on the ACOG website and the web master would see to it later this week.

V. AIR Public Education Committee/Clean Cities Program Update

- a. AQHA Banner Update
- b. Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge report
- c. HEB: E-85 Station Opening

Isabel Martinez, Clean Cities Coordinator presented the report in Brenda Williams' absence. She referred the committee to the outreach handout. She presented the following highlights:

- a. ACOG hosted the Walk and Roll Corporate Challenge during the month of October. The program challenged businesses and organizations to reduce their commute miles on their way to and from work. As a result several companies and organizations participated reducing over 200,000 vehicle miles traveled, and reducing 359 pounds of NOx and 443 pounds of VOCs. Mrs. Martinez announced that TXDOT was the winner by submitting the most smart miles per employee ratio.
- b. San Antonio City Councilman Roland Gutierrez initiated a free hybrid vehicle parking pilot program in downtown San Antonio. Councilman Gutierrez received national recognition for the initiative through the printed and television media. San Antonio is the only City in Texas with a program like this. She reported that there are currently 150 vehicles signed up to participate.
- c. As per Councilman Haass staff prepared and implemented a survey for organizations who bought Air Quality Health Alert Banners prior to 2006. The survey determined if the flags were being used during Air Quality Health Alert Banners. She reported that 63% responded yes, 31% did not respond, and 6% responded no.
- d. HEB one of San Antonio's corporate environmental stewards announced the opening of E85 fuel stations on the I-35 corridor. Cities with the E85 fuel stations are Schertz, Austin, Buda, Killeen, and Waco.

Mike Riley asked what percentage of the education effort mentioned transport. Mrs. Willden said she could find the information and get it to him. She said she had included transport information in June's news release on exceedences. Mr. Riley asked her if staff balanced their efforts within media releases to recognize transport as much a problem as the vehicle issue. Mr. Notzon said there were two issues if they were to get people to understand. One was a legislative issue and the other being that despite what is done to address transport there are still things we can do to address the ozone problem. He said the unfortunate thing is that if you mix those two messages through marketing you are saying: it is really not our problem it's coming from transport -- but, in fact, you ought to do something. Which message is going to be heard? Mr. Riley said he looked at it as a participatory process and the more that people know about transport maybe they'll get on the phone or write letters to the issues that ask what is being done about transport. Chairman Millikin asked Mr. Bella to provide a presentation for the next meeting on what occurred during the June exceedences. Chairman Millikin recalled the discussion showed that both transport and local ozone produced caused the exceedences.

Councilman Haass remarked that in his experience as a public official and dealing with the media on city issues, the issue of air quality is very complicated. He said every issue had two sides and the media didn't have time to pick up both sides of the issues. He pointed out that addressing air quality issues has to be done through two vehicles; one is the print media which

reaches a more educated reader, and secondly is through community conversations. He gave the example of an excellent program called "Movie In The Park" sponsored by Time Warner. The program was featured throughout different communities of San Antonio to discuss public service type issues this summer. He suggested that AACOG could perhaps team up with a private sector entity to sponsor a movie, for example, something like "A River Runs Through It" at different locations and have one-on-one conversations on issues concerning air quality.

Judge Quinney commented that in every case AACOG staff worked hard to obtain goals set by the AIR Executive and Technical Committees. He reminded the committee that they were all involved in a learning process therefore it wasn't necessary to come down hard on staff over making a point. Eventually, that point being made would be addressed where it could be made.

Mayor Boyer reiterated comments made by Councilman Haass and Mr. Notzon. He emphasized the importance of individual efforts being made by public officials to go back to their own governmental bodies and their lobbying efforts to approach the legislature on the issues. He reminded them that they could also do their own education locally to address the problem.

Judge Schraub remarked that the educational materials entitled "things you could do to prevent ozone on Air Quality Alert Days" were very impractical. He went down the list of things being recommended and said the average person would not quit driving, he was not going to ride a bus, he wasn't going to ride a bike, and he wasn't going to gas up after six when he's on empty and he wasn't going to stop use of the lawnmower especially if his livelihood depended on it. He said somehow or another the education program had to include something the average person can buy into and something the average person can actually do and feel good about it. Chairman Millikin said that buy-in from the average person is going to have to come very quickly.

Dave Newman asked Mrs. Martinez if the statistics on the survey included the 140 banners that the City puts out on Air Quality Health Alert Days. She said no that they had been purchased recently so they were not included in the survey. She added that the City was putting out a tremendous effort to display the banners.

Councilman Haass said he appreciated the City's effort in putting out the banners. They could set the example for the school districts. He asked Mrs. Martinez to continue monitoring the use of the flags when there was an Air Quality Health Alert Day. Councilman Haass also invited AACOG to take advantage of an opportunity to do outreach during the District Ten's Fall Community Fair of Services on November 11. He estimated 6000 people attend the fair to pick up information on COSA and other organizations. He asked that Mrs. Martinez contact Christine at his office for further information on the Fair.

Chairman Millikin expressed his appreciation to Councilman Haass for his efforts to re-energize the Air Quality effort on behalf of the City of San Antonio.

VI. Business of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committees

a. Welcome to Hon. H.A. "Dan" Daniels, City Councilman, Seguin
Chairman Millikin welcomed the City Councilman during roll call.

VII. Clean Air Update

- a. New Point Sources in Texas
 - i. Discussions and actions across the state

Mr. Bella referred the committee to the power point presentation he made on TXU's technical analysis. He informed the committee that he had included resolutions by the City of Austin and the City of Savoy to give them an idea of the diverse opinions shared on this topic.

b. **Actions by the City of San Antonio: Near Term Activities**

Councilman Haass explained that between combined efforts of elected policy makers and city staff great strides were being made in the following areas:

Hybrid Taxis - Over the course of the next year we can really begin to turn over the current fleet that exists and operates in San Antonio and move to a more pro-active hybrid type approach to taxi cabs.

Anti-Smoking Vehicle Ordinance - Although already in the books, emphasis is being placed on enforcement of the ordinance by the police department. This should lead to greater reductions of pollution. Monitoring of the ordinance will be continued.

Anti-Idling Ordinance - Currently being discussed and developed by the City Attorney's office. They should have a resolution in place shortly.

Stage One Vapor Recovery - Currently looking at allocating more funds for staff to monitor more effectively Stage One Vapor Recovery rule compliance and to monitor other VOC sources in sources permitted by the city.

Councilman Haass concluded the update by saying that from his standpoint even if there are problems we can't control that lead to non-attainment, the City of San Antonio can say that this region has done more than its fair share to keep the air clean. In working closely with the committee that he shares with Councilwoman Radle, he has told them that this is a conscience issue and he wants to leave office knowing everything has been done in his power and the City of San Antonio has done everything in their power to address this issue.

Renee Green explained that under Councilman Haass' comments on Stage One Vapor Recovery effort she wanted to make certain they understood that this staff would be monitoring facilities which had been previously thought to be called permit by rule where their air emissions were below the threshold needed for them to go and actually permit as a major point source. It was very important that they be monitored because in fact they may be exceeding the threshold.

c. **Action Item:** Consideration and approval of Resolution to TCEQ

Renee Green, Chair of the AIR Technical Committee presented the contents of a resolution that was approved by the AIR Technical Committee for the consideration of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committees. The letter was addressed to TCEQ and supported five budgetary and programmatic initiatives on behalf of the air quality program in the San Antonio region. She asked that elected officials also take the resolution for to their local governments for approval. Mayor Boyer made the motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion unanimously passed.

d. **Action Item:** Consideration and approval of Support Letter regarding proactive air quality efforts by CPS Energy and TXI.

Mr. Bella said that during their July 10 meeting the AIR Technical Committee suggested a letter to CPS Energy and TXI to recognize their clean air efforts. In addition Councilman Haass requested a resolution for consideration by the committee endorsing the consultation process undertaken by the Region 13 offices of TCEQ, AACOG and the local cement industry to reduce ozone precursor emissions in the region. The AIR Technical Committee during the August meeting reviewed the letter and approved it for consideration by the AIR Executive Committee. Renee Green commended Peter Bella and TCEQ for taking the initiative to discuss the air quality issues with TXI resulting from their permit application. Mayor Boyer made the motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Forrest Mims commended the efforts of staff and recommended that staff advise the media of this action. Mr. Notzon agreed with Mr. Mims on the media notification. Mr. Notzon accepted the compliments for staff and

then complimented Chairman Millikin who was involved in meetings with TCEQ. Mr. Notzon said Councilman Haass had pulled together a meeting with all the cement plants in the area to model off of the meeting with TXI. As that moves forward, Mr. Notzon hoped that it would lead to another resolution. Councilman Haass thanked Chairman Millikin for his leadership. Chairman Millikin thanked TCEQ for their partnership through the years. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion unanimously passed.

VIII. Other Issues

a. Action Item: Consideration and Approval of Resolution: Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles

Chairman Millikin asked for a motion on the item. Mayor Boyer made the motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Steve Smeltzer presented a brief analysis on the advantages found in the use of plug-in hybrids. Mr. Bella said he had provided letters of support for their review in their packets. Kevin Butt representing Toyota commented that he would be remiss not to point out other environmental issues with plug-in technology. He said Toyota was looking at the plug in technology however it was from a holistic point of view and although he understood the committee was looking at it from a perspective of air issues, there was concern over the creation of the battery and disposal of the battery because it is a completely different type of battery than it is in the normal hybrid. Mr. Mims commented that the emission benefits Mr. Smeltzer provided in his analysis was minimal. Judge Schraub also made the point that when you plug in you need a power source and that power source comes from coal powered plants so what is gained from battery power you lose in emissions from coal powered plants. After further discussion, Mr. Notzon recommended that the last sentence in the resolution be removed. It was agreed. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote to approve the resolution with the elimination of the last sentence. The motion passed.

IX. Adjourned

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.